

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3164

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017

Ranking in Global Hunger Index Report, 2016

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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the ranking accorded to the country in the Global Hunger Index Report, 2016 prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute and the steps taken by the Government to improve this position;
- (b) whether a substantial proportion of the population continue to suffer from lack of food according to the said report;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken to look into all the aspects of the problem; and
- (d) whether the country's Global Hunger Index score is lower as compared to those of other BRICS nations, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a), (b) & (c): As per information available in the public domain, Global Hunger Index report 2016 brought out by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in its latest publication released in October, 2016, India's rank has been calculated as 97 out of 118 countries.

According to the report, the Global Hunger Index is composed of the proportion of the undernourished as a percentage of the population, the prevalence of underweight children under the age of five and the mortality rate of children under the age of five (calculated average, in percentages).

The Government of India has accorded high priority to the issue of hunger and malnutrition in the country and is implementing several schemes/programmes through State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to improve food security situation in the country.

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For tackling the problem of hunger in the country and to provide food security to the vulnerable population, the Government has been provided foodgrains at highly subsidized prices to the targeted population through State Governments/ UT Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in terms of Nation Food Security Act, 2013 and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) such as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls, Annupurma Scheme etc.

National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for coverage of upto 70% of the rural and upto 50% of the urban population thus covering about two-third of the population, for receiving foodgrains at highly subsidized prices of Rs.3, 2 and 1 per Kg. for rice, wheat and coarse grain respectively under TPDS.

The Act also has a special focus on nutritional support to women and children. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to receive meals as per nutritional norms. Children upto 14 years of age are also entitled to nutritious meals or take home rations as per the prescribed nutritional standards. In case of non supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries are entitled to receive food security allowance as per NFSA, 2013.

During the current year 2016-17, the Government has so far allocated 628.91 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under TPDS, NFSA and OWS.

(d): Yes, Madam. Amongst the BRICS countries, Russia China and South Africa are ranked at 24, 29 and 51 respectively while Brazil has been collectively ranked 1-16 with other countries out of the 118 countries.
